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"FAIRFORD,"

EXMOUTH,

February 1st, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Exeter Port Health Authority—

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith, I beg to present the Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1938, drawn up in accordance with the instructions issued to Medical Officers of Health by the Ministry in their Memo. 204/S.A. As in previous Reports it deals with the Sanitary Administration, Sanitary Circumstances, and the Vital Statistics of the Port.

The subjoined Table shows the number of Coastwise and Foreign Vessels which arrived at the Port during the last three years.

	1936.	1937.	1938.
Coastwise	326	337	363
Foreign	119	105	107
Total	445	442	470

This shows an increase in both Coastwise and Foreign trade, as compared with 1937. A German Motor Vessel, with a cargo of timber, was the largest which entered the Port. Ten Foreign Vessels were trading Coastwise.

1. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE A.

		Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected: By the Medical Officer of Health.	Number Inspected: By the Sanitary Inspector	Number Reported to be Defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board
Foreign	Steamers ...	1	237	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Motor ...	106	15481	22	106			
	Sailing ...	0	0	0	0			
Total Foreign ...		107	15718	23	107			
Coastwise	Steamers ..	15	2405	6	15			
	Motor ..	348	49069	53	348			
	Sailing ...	0	0	0	0			
Total Coastwise ..		363	51474	59	363			
Total Foreign and Coastwise ...		470	67192	82	470			

2. CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.

TABLE B.

(*a*) Passenger Traffic during the year.

No. of Passengers	1st Class	2nd Class	3rd Class	Transmigrants
Inwards	NIL			
Outwards				

(*b*) CARGO TRAFFIC.

Principal Imports.—Coal, Sand, Asbestos, Slates, Timber, Sugar, Cement, Oilcake, Glass, Petrol, Manure, Apples, Middlings, Fertilizer, Bran, and Potatoes.

(*c*) FOREIGN PORTS FROM WHICH VESSELS ARRIVE.

St. Malo, Antwerp, Trangsund, Deauville, Amsterdam, Bremen, Hamburgh, Ghent, Rotterdam, Ostend.

3. WATER SUPPLY.

A constant supply of pure potable water is provided for (*a*) the Port, and (*b*) Shipping, by the Exmouth Urban District Council, whilst the danger of contamination is precluded by the County Analyst's periodical chemical and bacteriological examinations. No water boats are in use.

4. PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933.

(1) **Declarations of Health.** After being filled in and signed by the Master of the Vessel concerned, these Declarations are forwarded to me.

(2) **Boarding of Vessels.** All Vessels on arrival are boarded and inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, some by the Medical Officer of Health, and a few by the Deputy Medical Officer. All have been passed as *clean* and a large proportion as *very clean.*

(3) **Notification to the Authority of inward Vessels requiring special attention.** I should promptly be advised of such needs by the Sanitary Inspector, Customs Officer and Pilot.

(4) Mooring stations within and outside the Docks are satisfactory.

(5) No standing exemptions from the provisions of Article 14 have been made.

(6) **Working of Article 16.** No restrictions necessary.

(7) **Premises and waiting rooms for medical examination.**

[*a*] None available. Examinations would, presumably, be made on board the Vessel concerned.

[*b*] The cleansing and disinfection of persons, clothing, etc., would be carried out by the Sanitary Inspector under my supervision. A bath with hot and cold water is available for verminous persons, and a high pressure steam apparatus for clothing, bedding, etc.

[*c*] There are no premises for the temporary accommodation of persons.

[*d*] Cases of Smallpox would be removed by ambulance to the County Hospital, near Exeter, a distance of about 12 miles, the charge being 2/- per mile each way, with an additional fee of 5/- for a nurse, if required. Cases of Plague, Cholera, and Yellow Fever would be detained on board in the Bight, thus preventing risk of contact with other vessels or the shore.

[*e*] Removal to the Exmouth Hospital by the Exmouth Council's Ambulance, is available for accidents.

[*f*] The Medical Officer of Health or his deputy would exercise supervision over contacts.

(8) No arrangements have been made for the Pathological Examination of rats for plague.

(9) Other necessary bacteriological and pathological examinations would be entrusted to the County Analyst.

(10) Cases of Venereal Disease would be treated at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, the appointed days being Monday and Friday in each week. Leaflets giving this information, are handed to the Masters of all Vessels entering the Port, for distribution amongst the Crews.

(11) No arrangements have been made for the interment of the dead.

TABLE C.

Cases of infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease	Number of Cases during 1938		No. of Vessels concerned	Average No. of Cases for previous 5 years
	Passengers.	Crew.		
NIL				

TABLE D.

Cases of infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

Disease	Number of Cases during 1938		No. of Vessels concerned	Average No. of Cases for previous 5 years
	Passengers.	Crew.		
NIL				

5. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

As all Vessels arriving at the Port are of small tonnage (under 400) the presence of rats would easily be detected, and the Masters, after questioning, have all declared their Vessels to be free from these vermin. Mooring ropes fitted with rat guards are in use, but there is nothing to prevent rats from jumping on deck from the docksides. No cases of rat infestation in premises adjoining the Docks have been reported to me.

Rats destroyed during the year.

TABLE E.

(1) On Vessels.

Number of Rats.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total in Year
Black													
Brown													
Species not recorded							NONE						
Examined ...													
Infected with plague													

TABLE F.

(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.

Number of Rats.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total in Year
Black													
Brown													
Species not recorded							NONE						
Examined ...													
Infected with plague													

TABLE G.

No measures of Rat destruction on Plague "infected" or "suspected" Vessels or Vessels from Plague infected ports arriving in this Port during the year were required.

6. HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

In the great majority of cases the sanitation of the Vessels was described by the Inspector as "clean," many were "very clean." The condition of a Dutch Steamer was defined as "fair."

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessel	Number inspected during the year	Defects of original construction	Structural defects through wear and tear	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health
British	363		NIL	
Other Nations ...	107			

7. FOOD INSPECTION.

(1) Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1925, the Public Health (Imported Food) Amendment Regulations, 1933, the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives &c., in Food) Regulatious, 1925 to 1927. None required

(2) *Shell-fish.* Up to the present (1st January, 1939) no decision has been received from the Minister of Health in reply to the application of the Port Health Authority that cockles and winkles from the estuary of the River Exe be excluded from the operation of the Shell-fish Regulations ; but it is hoped that the Minister will give his decision at an early date.

(3) *Number of Samples of Food examined by :—*

(*a*) Bacteriologist.

Nature of Sample. Result of Examination. Nil.

(*b*) Analyst.

Nature of Sample. Result of Examination. Nil.

8. PORT OF TOPSHAM.

I visited this Port periodically during the year and informed the Port Health Authority of the result of these inspections in my Quarterly Reports. The Sanitary Inspector reported that all Vessels were boarded and inspected by him, and that no cases of sickness, infectious or otherwise, amongst the Crews, had come under his notice. No Sanitary defects were discovered, nor were there signs of rat infestation on any of the Vessels which arrived at the Port.

The Annual Report of Inspections in Exeter by Mr. Bonham, Chief Sanitary Inspector, is enclosed herewith.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,
C. BEESLEY,
Medical Officer of Health.

7th February, 1939.

Dear Sir,

PORT HEALTH INSPECTION IN EXETER.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1938.

During the year 1938, the number of food cargoes examined at the Port of Exeter were :—

Sugar	7
Salt Codfish ...	1

Other ships which arrived at Exeter, and which were inspected, carried cargoes as follows :—

Coal ...	24
Cement ...	36
Cement and Telegraph Poles	1
Cement and Glass	2
Cement, Lime and Asbestos	1
Cement, Glass and Twine	1
Cement and Lime	1
Cement, Glass and Matches	1
Motor Spirit ...	38
Timber ...	3
Agricultural Salt ...	1
Fertiliser ...	2
Oil Cake ...	1
Hides, Cement, Hemp and Earthenware	1
Tanning Material ...	1
Oxide ...	1
Asbestos Tiles ...	1

The food cargoes arrived in excellent condition, that of the salt codfish being periodically examined during unloading.

In all cases the health of the crews was inquired into and no illness was reported or suspected.

Routine inspection of the crews' quarters and the sanitation of the vessels was carried out and observations were made for rat infestation. Generally, the sanitation of the vessels was good.

On board a vessel from Nantes carrying Phosphates, was a Budgerigar belonging to the Captain, it's presence being notified by Customs. Precautions were taken under the Parrots' Prohibition of Import Regulations, 1930, to see that this bird was not landed.

The wharves and warehouses at the Quay and Basin were periodically examined and found to be maintained in good condition.

Three loads of granite chippings were exported.

Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR E. BONHAM,

Assistant Officer.

Dr. C. BEESLEY,
Medical Officer of Health,
Exeter Port Health Authority.